establishment on 23.11.1997, on deemed deputation basis. Approximate expenditure on their pay and allowances during the year 2000-2001 was Rs.504.48 crores.

Establishment of TV Centres in Maharashtra

86. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the present policy of Government so far as establishment of TV Centres in States is concerned;

(b) the position of Maharashtra so far as establishment of TV Centres is concerned;

(c) whether there is a proposal to set up a TV Centre at Amravati in Maharashtra;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that the criteria for deciding the locations of TV transmitters includes factors such as existing facilities, extent of resultant coverage to urban and rural pupulation, provision of services to tribal, hilly, remote and border areas, terrain condition, availability of resources, *inter se* priorities etc.

(b) Three studio centres and 106 transmitters (DD.I-102, DD.II-4) are presently functioning in Maharashtra. For further expansion of TV coverage in Maharashtra, 18 transmitter projects are under implementation.

(c) to (e) A TV transmitter is already functioning at Amravati. There is no proposal to set up any other TV centre at Amravati.

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